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REMARKS**STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 9 and 11 have been amended. Claims 4, 6-8, 10 and 12 have been previously withdrawn. Claim 5 has been previously cancelled. Claims 1-3, 9 and 11 are pending and under consideration.

No new matter is being presented and approval of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-3, 9 AND 11 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY HABRA (U.S. PATENT NO. 5,295,081)

The rejections of claims 1-3, 9 and 11 are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Habra discloses a method for allowing multiple users to simultaneously edit VLSI circuit data. (Abstract) A "design controller" restricts editing accessibility of an external network to one user at a time and locks out all other users. (See column 2, lines 33-40). Until the DB and the other parcels are updated, the external network cannot be accessed. (See column 2, lines 41-45).

To the contrary, the present invention, more specifically, claim 1 recites controlling the input/output status of commands from respective consoles to the server so that only one console at a time is allowed to have input privilege and other of the consoles are allowed to have output privilege; and controlling the input/output of commands based on the input/output status so that the commands from the input privileged console are sent to the server, and response messages or results of execution from the server are sent to the input privileged console and the output privileged consoles.

Habra does not discuss the features described above, since the method of Habra has no need to output response messages to the user who edits the circuit data, nor to output the messages to the other users who did not edit the circuit data.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited reference. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claims 1 and inherit its patentable recitations. Thus, it is further submitted that claims 2 and 3 patentably distinguish over the cited reference.

Amended claims 9 and 11 recite controlling the input status of the server to exclude input

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of other commands to the server while in the updated input status, wherein only one of the plurality of consoles at a time is allowed to have input privilege and the other consoles are allowed to have output privilege with the server at; and controlling the input/output of commands based on the input/output status so that the commands from the input privileged console are sent to the server, and the response message or the result of execution from the server are sent to the input privileged console and the output privileged consoles.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 9 and 11 patentably distinguish over the cited reference.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Further, all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to: Commissioner for Patents,
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